

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PEKING 00416 150639Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03  
INR-10 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03  
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FM USLO PEKING  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9895  
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0416

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: ECON EAGR CH SOCI  
SUBJ: OBSERVATIONS IN KUNMING AND NANNING

REF: 77 PEKING 2583

1. SUMMARY. AUSTRALIAN EMBOFF RECENTLY BRIEFED USLO ON HIGHLIGHTS OF RECENT TRIP TO KUNMING AND NANNING. HE INDICATED NO NOTEWORTHY POLITICAL ACTIVITY WAS OBSERVED IN EITHER PLACE. LIVING CONDITIONS IN BOTH CITIES APPEARED GOOD, BUT SURROUNDING COUNTRYSIDE CONSIDERABLY POORER. WHEN VISITING A CHUANG MINORITY AREA OUTSIDE NANNING, AUSTRALIAN EMBOFFS WERE TOLD THAT NO EFFORTS WERE BEING MADE TO CONTROL POPULATION GROWTH THERE. APPARENTLY NANNING IS NOW OPEN TO TOURISTS, AND BY THE END OF THIS YEAR WILL HAVE THREE TOURISTS HOTELS. END SUMMARY.

2. AUSTRALIAN EMBOFF WHO VISITED KUNMING, YUNNAN, AND NANNING, KWANGSI, FROM JANUARY 27 TO MID-FEBRUARY ACCOMPANYING THE AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR PROVIDED USLO WITH THE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS AND IMPRESSIONS OF THE TRIP WHICH WAS PRIMARILY DEVOTED TO SIGHT-SEEING.

3. KUNMING. NO NOTEWORTHY POLITICAL ACTIVITY WAS OBSERVED. THE  
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PAGE 02 PEKING 00416 150639Z

URBAN POPULATION WAS WELL-DRESSED AND APPARENTLY WELL-NOURISHED, AND THE SUPPLIES AND VARIETIES OF CONSUMER GOODS IN KUNMING STORES COMPARED FAVORABLY WITH THOSE IN PEKING. EMBOFF WAS SURPRISED BY THE DEARTH OF LOCAL REFERENCES TO THE GANG OF FOUR OR TO POLITICAL SUBJECTS IN GENERAL. (THE AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR NEITHER ASKED FOR NOR RECEIVED A GENERAL POLITICAL OR ECONOMIC BRIEFING BY PROVINCIAL-LEVEL OFFICIALS IN YUNNAN OR KWANGSI.)

4. EMBOFF WAS SURPRISED TO FIND WHAT APPEARED TO BE A FUNCTIONING BUDDHIST TEMPLE IN KUNMING COMPLETE WITH MONKS (DOING PART-TIME MANUAL LABOR) AND INCENSE. IT WAS EXPLAINED THAT SOME OLD PEOPLE STILL WORSHIP IN THE TEMPLE. AT THE KUNMING HEAVY MACHINERY FACTORY, THE ONLY FACTORY VISITED, IT WAS STATED THAT ONE-THIRD OF THE WORKERS HAD RECEIVED OR WOULD RECEIVE A WAGE INCREASE. EMBOFF NOTED THAT THE FACTORY ELECTRICITY SUPPLY WAS WEAK AND VARIABLE, AND FACTORY OFFICIALS ADMITTED THAT THIS SITUATION NECESSITATED TURNING SOME MACHINES OFF DURING PERIODS OF PEAK UTILIZATION AND RESULTED IN PRODUCTION LOSSES.

5. IN COUNTRYSIDE AROUND KUNMING PEOPLE WERE OBSERVED TO BE MUCH POORER, FREQUENTLY DRESSED IN RAGGED CLOTHING, BUT STILL APPARENTLY ADEQUATELY NOURISHED. VIRTUALLY NO MECHANIZATION, NOT EVEN BICYCLES, WAS OBSERVED. EMBOFF WAS ALSO STRICK BY THE PREVALENCE OF CHILD LABOR ENGAGED IN PULLING HEAVY LOADS, FIELD WORK, ETC. THIS MAY HAVE BEEN A TEMPORARY PHENOMENON OCCASIONED BY THE SPRING HOLIDAY, HOWEVER.

6. NANNING. NO NOTEWORTHY POLITICAL ACTIVITY. EMBOFF WAS TOLD THAT THIS CITY IS NOW OPEN TO TOURISTS (IN FACT MANY AUSTRALIAN TOURISTS HAVE VISITED IT RECENTLY). NANNING NOW HAS TWO TOURIST HOTELS AND A NEW 12-STORY AIR-CONDITIONED HOTEL IS SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION IN LATE 1978. CHINA TRAVEL SERVICE HAS SOME TWENTY ENGLISH LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS  
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 PEKING 00416 150639Z

IN NANNING. PEOPLE IN NANNING WERE AGAIN WELL-CLOTHED AND APPARENTLY WELL-FED.

7. EMBOFF WAS IMPRESSED BY APPARENT AUTONOMY NANNING OFFICIALS ENJOYED IN OPERATION OF LOCAL TOURISM ENTERPRISES AND GOT THE IMPRESSION THAT THIS AUTONOMY EXTENDS TO OTHER SECTORS AS WELL. EMBOFF WAS SURPRISED TO SEE THAT VIRTUALLY ALL PUBLIC SERVICE SIGNS AND INSTRUCTIONS WERE PRINTED IN BOTH VIETNAMESE AND CHINESE, AS WELL AS OCCASIONALLY IN ENGLISH. LOCAL OFFICIALS ADMITTED THAT THERE ARE "SOME" VIETNAMESE IN NANNING.

8. EMBOFF VISITED WUMING COUNTY OUTSIDE NANNING WHOSE POPULATION IS 85 PERCENT CHUANG NATIONALITY. HE WAS TOLD THAT NO EFFORT IS MADE TO ENCOURAGE POPULATION CONTROL AMONG THIS MINORITY. THE LEVEL OF MECHANIZATION OUTSIDE NANNING -- IN PARTICULAR, USE OF WALKING TRACTORS -- WAS CONSIDERABLY HIGHER THAN AROUND KUNMING.

9. EMBOFF IS EXPECTED TO MAKE MORE DETAILED REPORTS AVAILABLE TO USLO AND NOTEWORTHY PARTS OF THESE WILL BE SENT TO DEPT. DEAN

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## Message Attributes

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